Implementation of ERC's recommendations

2194. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of Economic Reforms Commission's recommendations during the last one year; especially in the field of downsizing of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the success achieved in downsizing the employees, Ministry/ Department-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to implement the recommendations made by Geetha Krishnan Committee; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The implementation of the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission is reviewed on regular basis. The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Geethakrishnan, had submitted in all ten reports, covering 36 Ministries/Departments and four specific issues, namely, Food Subsidy, Fertilizer Subsidy, Autonomous Institutions and Optimizing Staff Strength. The Recommendations contained in these reports were forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments and these are at various stages of implementation. The ERC has identified about 42,000 posts for abolition in various Ministries/Departments. On further scrutiny the concerned Ministries/Departments idenfiied around 24,000 posts for abolition. So far around 16,959 posts have been abolished in various Ministries/Departments namely, Information and Broadcasting-1424, Economic Affairs-1903, Public Enterprises-15, Supply-1451, Steel-6, Petroleum and Natural Gas-17, Chemicals and Petrochemicals-624, Fertilizers-19, Mines-2918, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution-299, Agriculture and Cooperation-304, Shipping-8, Women and Child Development-177, Environment and Forests-779,

Culture-13, Commerce-91, Urban Development-6714, Pers and Trg. 35, Tourism-28, Industrial Policy and Promotion-134. As a result of orders issued by the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances to all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India to restrict the direct recruitment to 1/3 of the annual direct recruitment vacancies subject to the condition that this does not exceed one percent of the total strength of a particular Department, around 55,500 posts have been identified for abolition.

Simplifications of procedure of tax refunds

†2195. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure of tax refunds in order to streamline the tax administration and to provide immediate relief to the tax-payers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) With a view to improve Tax payer services, the Government has simplified the proceedure for issue of refunds by:

(i) discontinuing the system of sending Advice Note to the Bank separately in cases of refunds upto Rs. 9999/-

(ii) it has also been decided that there would be no separate Refund Books for refunds upto Rs. 9999/- and refunds of Rs. 10,000/- and above. The refund stationery has, therefore, been revised and now the Refund Books in 1+3 form will be used for all refunds irrespective of the monetary limits;

(iii) it has also been decided to prepare refunds on Pre-printed Continuous Computer Stationery so that refunds are issued expeditiously and tax payers' grievances are minimized.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.